



FEMA

Disclaimer: The purpose of this briefing is to provide a ***Regional*** weather threat assessment and is meant as a general overview. County/Parish decision makers should consult their local NWS forecast offices for the latest detailed, local weather information. To find your local NWS forecast office, go to www.weather.gov/srh and click on the "Weather Forecast Offices" tab and click on the map for your area.

FEMA Region 6 Weather Threat Briefing

Sunday, December 17, 2017
Issued: 0800 CT

Day 1 Weather Impacts: *Isolated strong/severe storms with heavy rainfall possible over SE LA through midday.
Snow expected in higher elevations of SW NM.*

National Weather Service

*Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX*



**Prepared by: Jennifer McNatt
817-978-1100 x 147**

Key Points



Today

- Isolated strong/severe storms possible over SE LA through midday; strong winds and an isolated tornado possible, along with heavy rain/isolated flooding
- Snow expected in higher elevations of SW NM; 3-6" possible with isolated higher amounts

Monday - Thursday

- Showers and isolated storms continue over SE & E TX as well as LA on Monday but widespread severe weather and/or heavy rain is not expected
- Heavy rain/isolated flash flooding possible over S AR and N LA on Tuesday
- Strong to severe storms possible over SE TX Tuesday afternoon/evening; strong winds and an isolated tornado possible
- Snow possible again over NM by Thursday

See extra slide at the end of the presentation for the forecast possibilities next weekend into Christmas Day.

FEMA Region 6 Threat Matrix

Dec 17, 2017 through Dec 21, 2017

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
Severe Weather	SE LA		SE TX		
Heavy Rain / Flash Flooding	SE LA		S AR, N LA		
Fire Weather					
Winter	SW NM				NM
River Flooding					

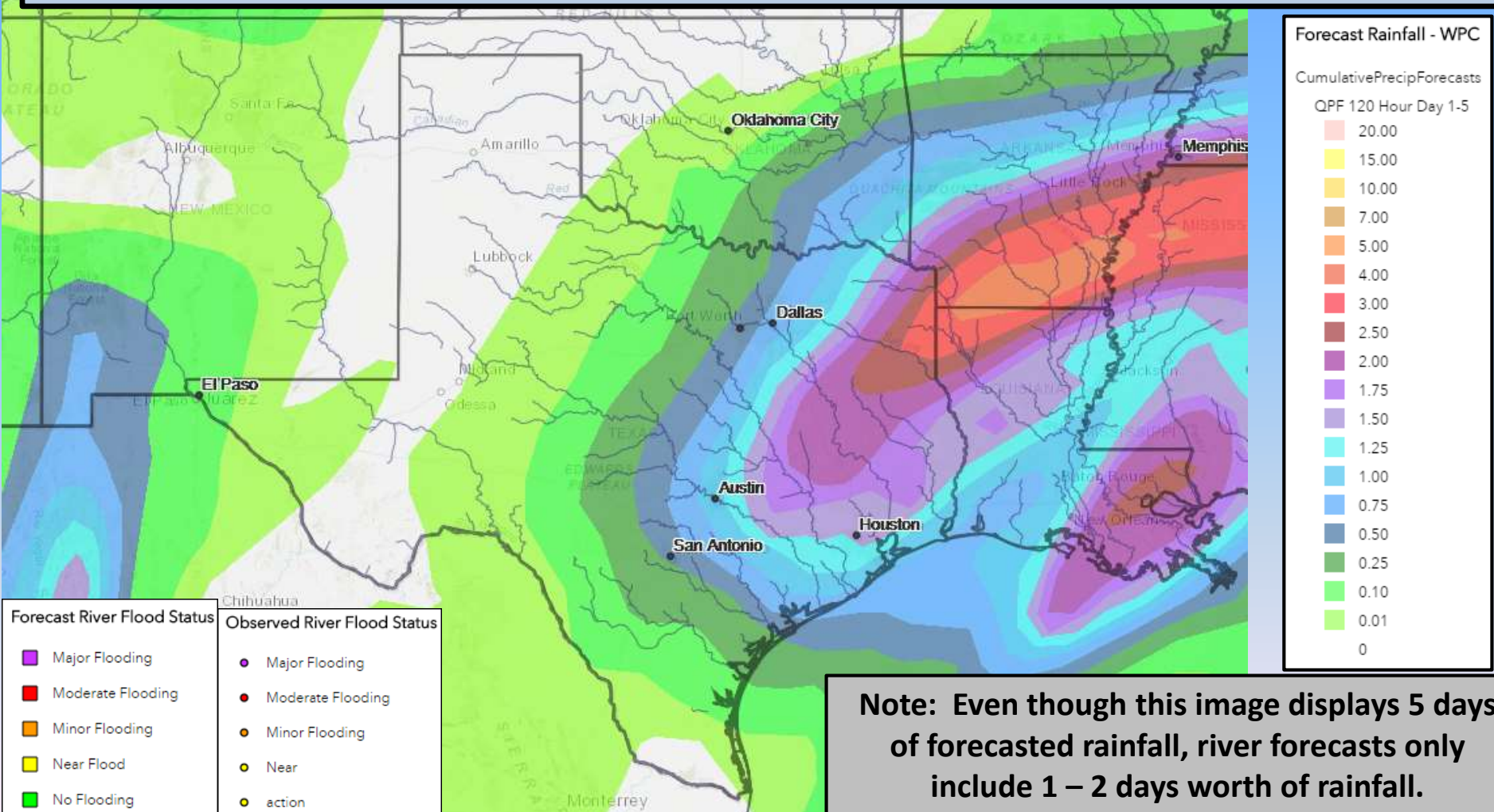
	No Weather Threats Expected
	Very Common – Happens Often
	Common – Happens Frequently
	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year
	Rare – Once Every 1-5 Years
	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years

For more details on the colors in the threat matrix refer to the last slide in this briefing.



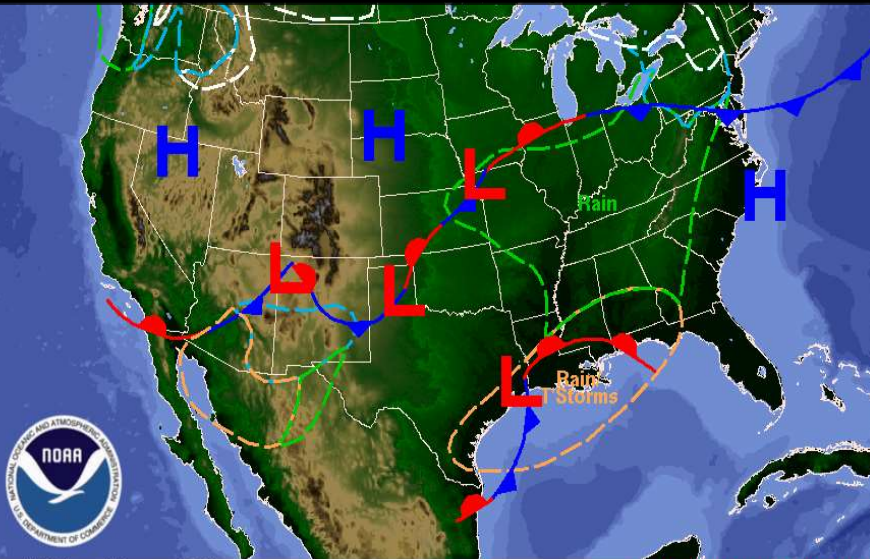
5-Day Precipitation Forecast & River Flood Status

An active weather pattern will bring rain chances to at least the eastern half of the Region over the next week. Widespread flooding is not expected as these areas have seen little rainfall recently and are currently experiencing severe to extreme drought conditions.



For the latest on river flooding: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps>

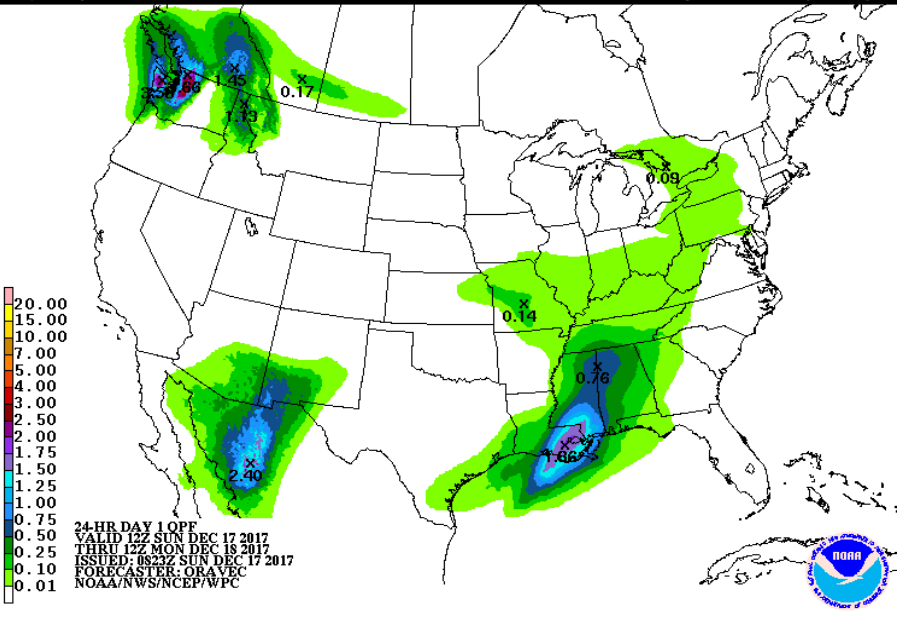
Today's Weather



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sun, Dec 17, 2017, issued 4:08 AM EST
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

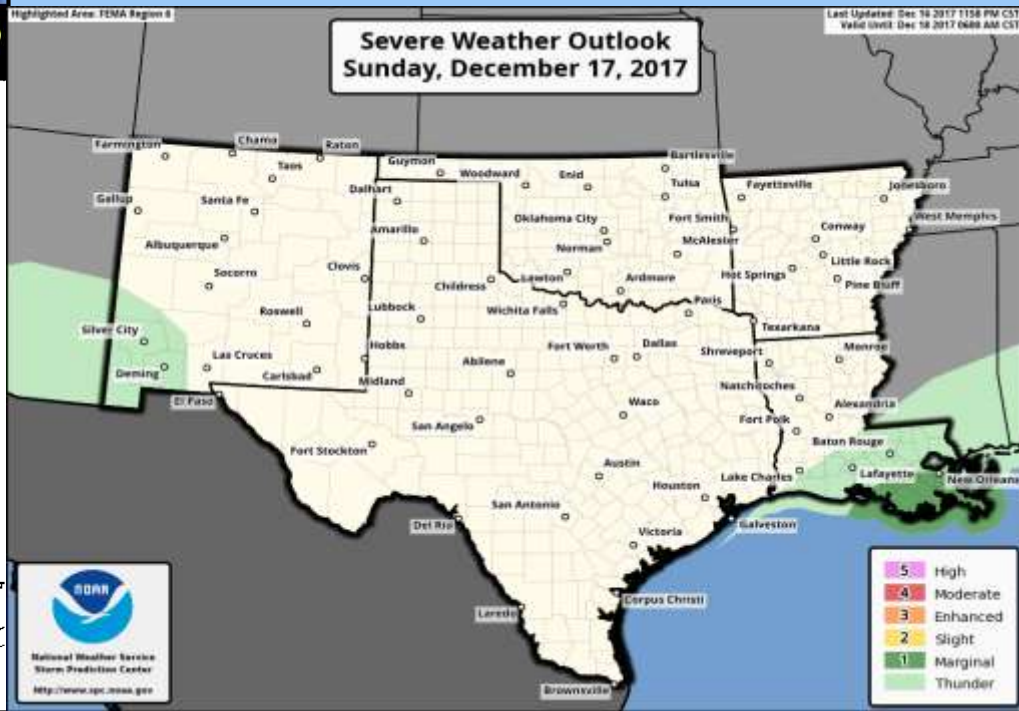
Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



24 HR DAY 1 OPI
VALID 12Z SUN DEC 17 2017
THRU 12Z MON DEC 18 2017
ISSUED: 0623Z SUN DEC 17 2017
FORECASTER: ORA/VEC
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/WPC

Strong storms possible over SE LA throughout midday; strong winds and an isolated tornado possible, along with heavy rainfall/isolated flooding.

Snow expected in higher elevations of SW NM; 3-6" possible with isolated higher amounts.

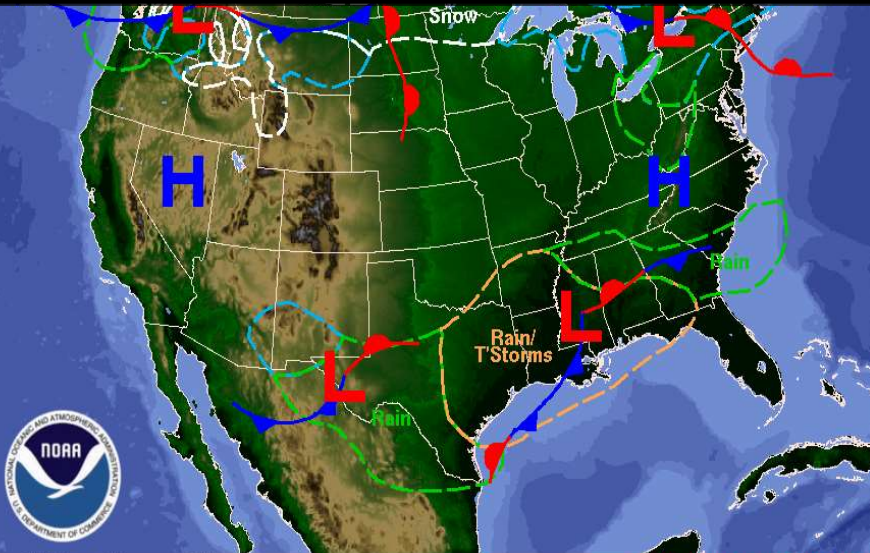


Severe Weather Outlook Sunday, December 17, 2017

Last Updated: Dec 16 2017 1158 PM CST
Valid Until: Dec 16 2017 0600 AM CST



Tomorrow's Weather

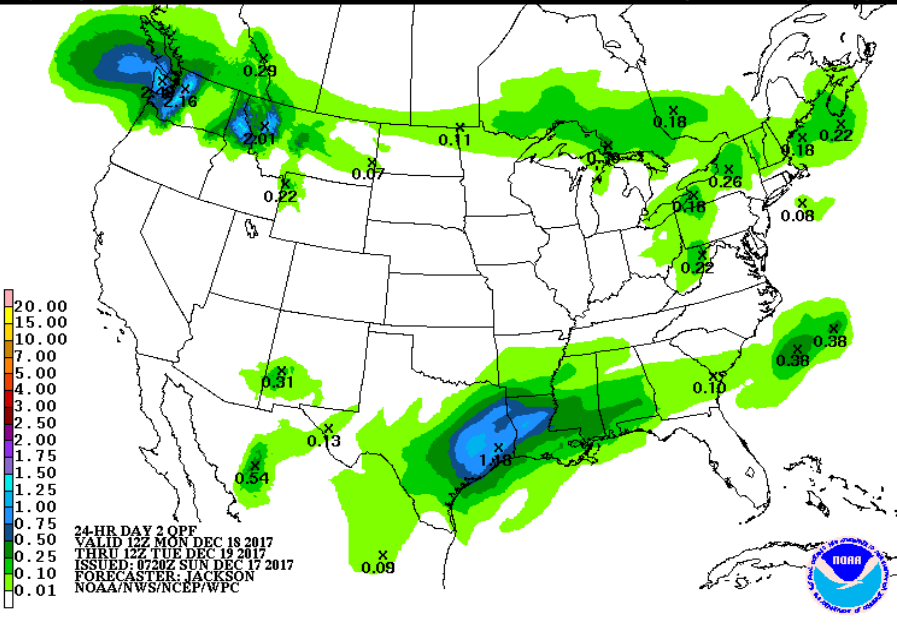


Storms continue across SE & E TX as well as LA, but severe weather and/or heavy rain is not expected.

Day 2 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Dec 18, 2017, issued 4:11 AM EST Sun, Dec 17, 2017
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



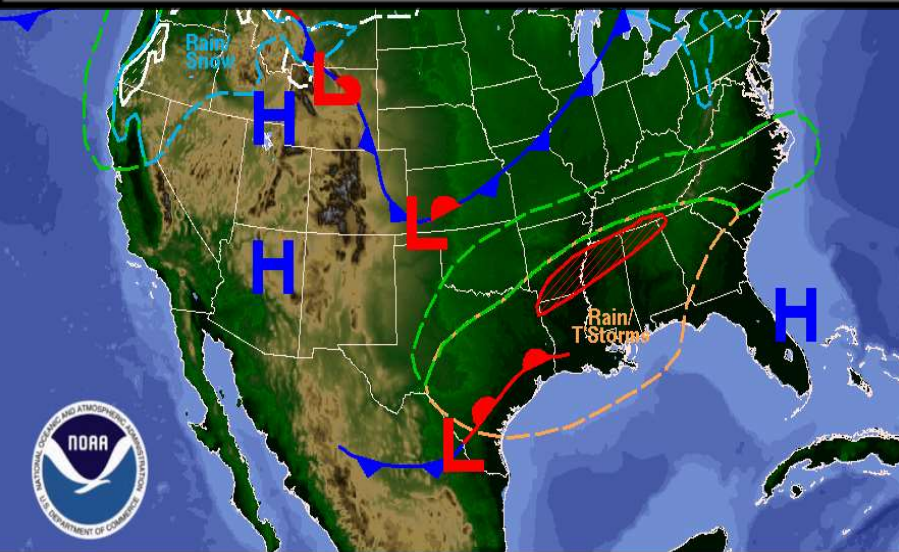
Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 8

Severe Weather Outlook Monday, December 18, 2017

Last Updated: Dec 18 2017 11:51 PM CST
Valid 0000Z Dec 19 2017 0000 AM CST



Tuesday's Weather



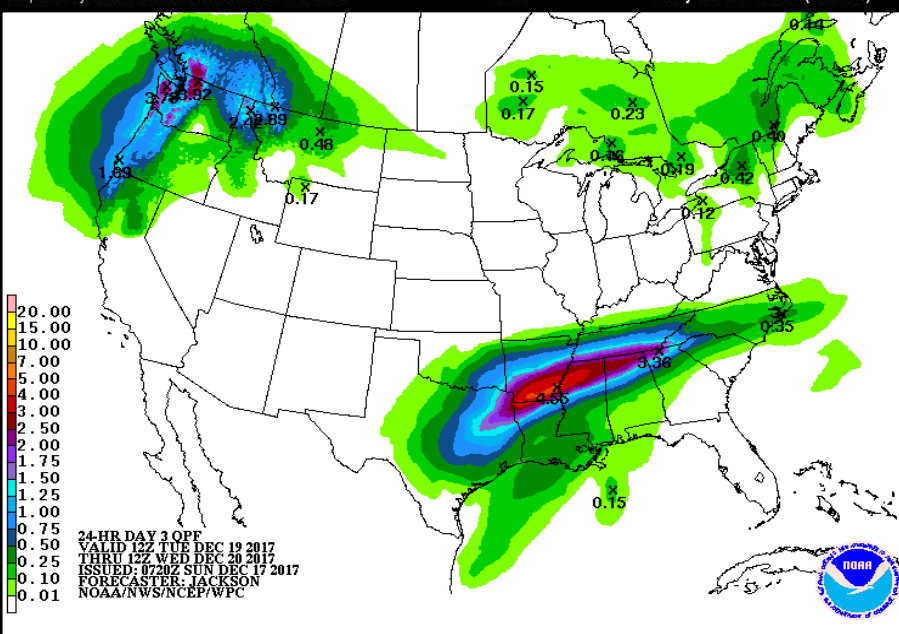
A few strong storms possible in SE TX Tuesday afternoon/evening; strong winds and an isolated tornado possible.

Heavy rain/isolated flash flooding possible over S AR/N LA.

Day 3 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Dec 19, 2017, issued 4:15 AM EST Sun, Dec 17, 2017
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow
Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)



Highlighted Area: FEMA Region 6

Severe Weather Outlook Tuesday, December 19, 2017

Last Updated: Dec 17 2017 6:17 AM CST
Valid Until: Dec 20 2017 06:00 AM CST



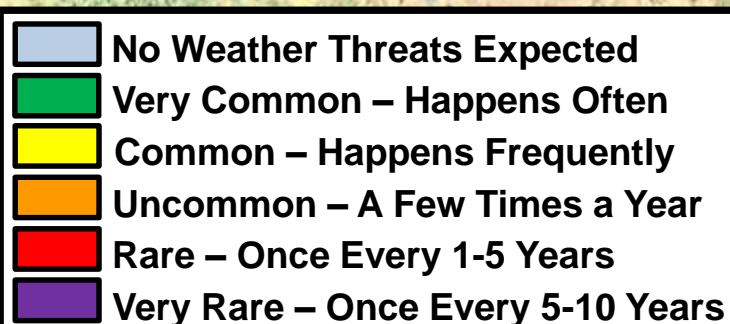
Day 4-5 Weather Hazards

Wednesday - Thursday



Snow chances
return on
Thursday; too
early to pinpoint
exact locations
or amounts

Rain will be
exiting the
Region early
Wednesday.



*Threat levels are based on FEMA Region 6 criteria. State or local threat level criteria may differ.

Extended Outlook – Holiday Weekend

Christmas Weekend Forecast

What we know: Colder weather expected, beginning this Thursday, and possibly extending through Dec. 30

What we don't know: Chance of Wintry Precipitation including amounts and type this weekend

Why: Confidence is low this far in advance.

What to do: Start thinking about future plans, if winter weather becomes more likely.

www.weather.gov/winter



Bottom Line: There is some chance of wintry precipitation in Region 6 next weekend into Christmas Day.

Models are now trending drier though, which would limit the amounts and locations of wintry precipitation.

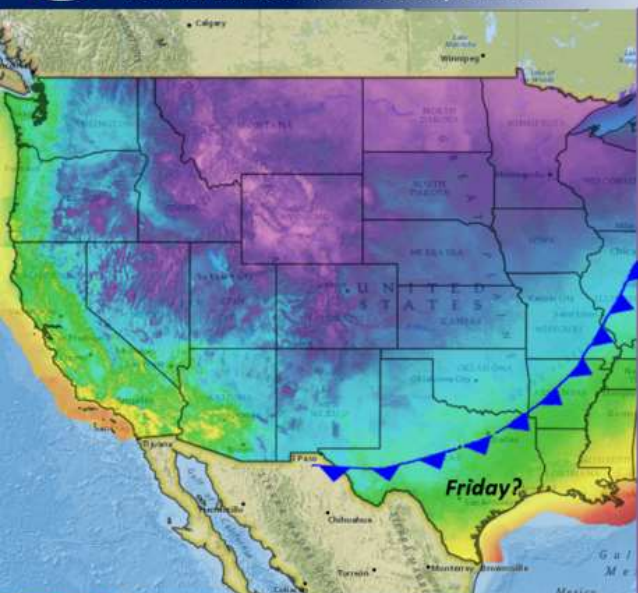
Stay tuned to the forecasts this week!

Thanks to WFOs San Angelo, Houston and Fort Worth for the graphics!



Late Week Cold Front

National Weather Service Houston/Galveston



So what do we know in regards to Southeast Texas?

- It will be colder than normal the weekend before Christmas into the beginning of next week.
- It is too early to determine impacts, if any.
- Winter weather cannot completely be ruled out... but several things would have to come together for that to be the case.
- Model guidance is inconsistent on what will actually happen in the longer ranges of the forecast. This is not. Expect run-to-run variations for the next several days.
- Forecast confidence should begin increasing toward midweek.

Friday?



@NWSHouston
weather.gov/houston

Image 12/17/2017
Created 7:30 AM



Social Media & Winter Weather



Social media is a great way to share weather information, but we all need to be responsible, especially with winter weather in the forecast.

Think Twice Before You Share!

If you don't believe information is coming from a reliable source, think twice before sharing it! Anyone can post graphics with outrageous forecasts just to get attention.

Know Your Meteorologist!

Find a reliable source of information that you know and trust. Consider sharing their information and encourage others to do the same.

Computer Models are NOT the Forecast!

Many computer model graphics find their way onto social media and can cause a lot of confusion without proper context. These typically do not represent the actual forecast.

Represent Your Community!

Share your pictures and reports with your local NWS office and ALL your favorite meteorologists! We need ground-truth information to verify what we are seeing on our computers.

We all need to work together to make sure social media is a reliable source of information for everyone!



@NWSFortWorth
weather.gov/FortWorth

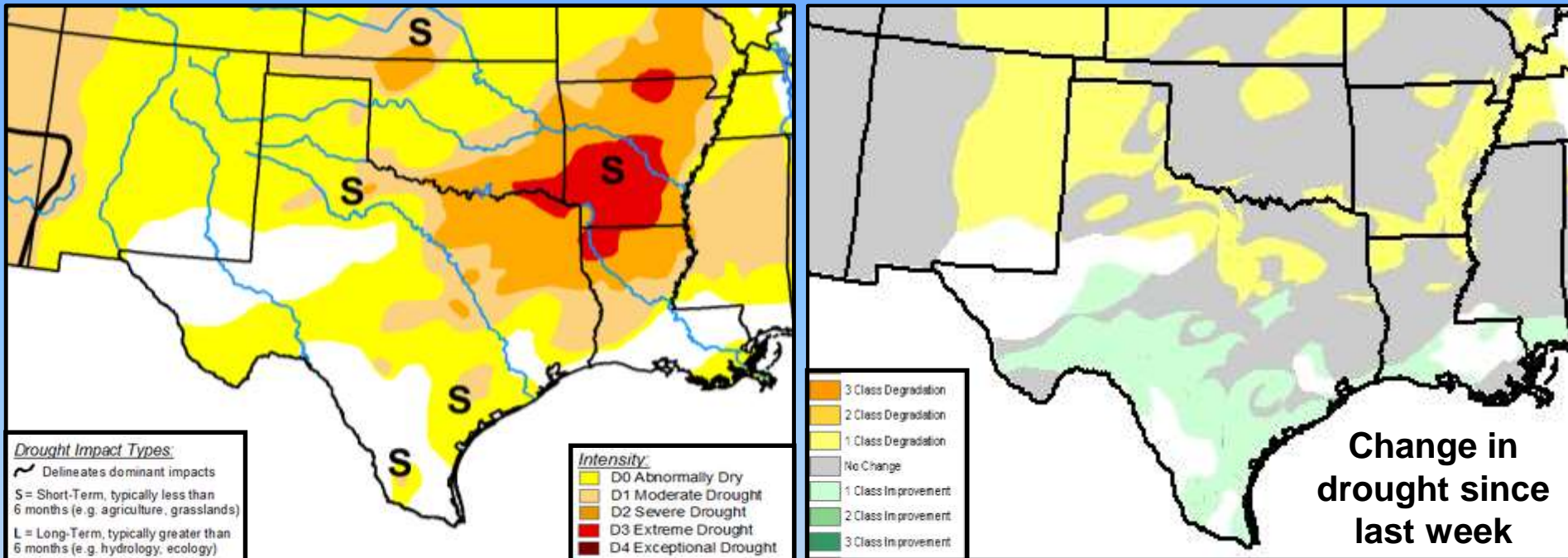


403 PM CST
Thu Dec 14 2017
National Weather Service
Fort Worth, TX



Drought Monitor Released December 14, 2017

Data valid as of 6am CST, Tuesday, December 12, 2017



Drought Conditions (Percent Area) in D3-D4 (Extreme to Exceptional Drought)

State	Current	Last Week	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Arkansas	42.40%	26.13%	0.00%	0.00%
Louisiana	7.07%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	3.12%	0.78%	0.00%	3.14%
Texas	0.76%	0.00%	0.00%	0.04%
New Mexico	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%

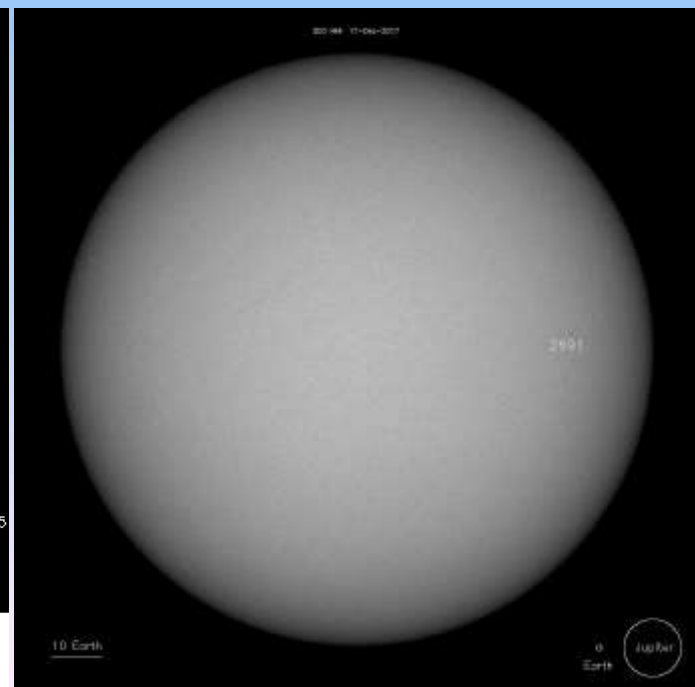
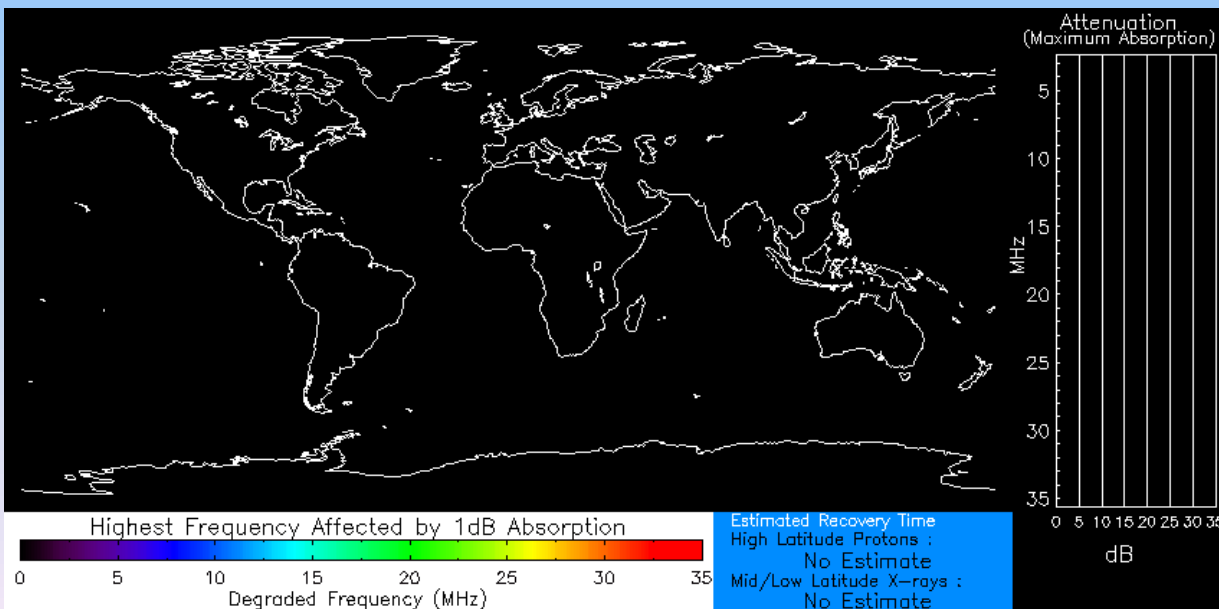
Space Weather 3-Day Forecast



[Click here for a Description of the Space Weather Storm Scales](#)

[Click here for the Latest 3-Day Space Weather Forecast Text](#)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Geomagnetic Storms	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Minor (G1) Storm (Max Kp = 5)	Unsettled to Active (Max Kp = 4)
Solar Radiation Storm (S1-S5)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R1-R2)	1%	1%	1%
Radio Blackout (R3-R5)	1%	1%	1%



Normal X-ray Background
Product Valid At : 2017-12-17 12:55 UTC

Normal Proton Background
NOAA/SWPC Boulder, CO USA

Information provided by:



National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Fort Worth, TX

Phone: (682) 703-3747 ***New Direct Number**
E-mail: sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov
Web: <http://www.weather.gov/srh> (**NEW link!!**)

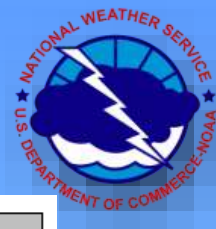
facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NWSSouthern>

twitter

@NWS_Southern_US https://twitter.com/NWS_Southern_US

The criteria for the color codes in our briefings is below, please provide any feedback to sr-srh.roc@noaa.gov.



Weather "Threat" Matrix			
Color	Definition	Criteria	Example(s)
Green	Very Common Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Little Inconvenience to Daily Routines	Severe: Marginal Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over localized areas Tropical: None Fire Weather: No Watches/Warnings, fuel moisture above 10% or green up active	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thunderstorms expected over LA this afternoon; a few may produce winds to knock down a few trees Something that happens almost every day in a particular season such as <u>seabreeze</u> storms in coastal TX
Yellow	Somewhat Common – Happens Frequently Safety: Rarely a Direct Threat to Life and Property Impact Potential: Typically Results in Some Inconvenience to Daily Life	Severe: Slight Risk from SPC Flooding: Nuisance flooded expected for a widespread area, or Minor flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A weak tropical wave expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire Weather: Red Flag Watches/Warnings and/or SPC outlines enhanced or critical fire outlook	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3 inches of rainfall expected over central AR today and tonight; some minor (brief) street flooding possible Scattered severe storms possible, one or two tornadoes expected, along with reports of strong winds/wind damage and ~1" hail
Orange	Uncommon – A Few Times a Year Safety: Often Threatening to Life and Property, Some Damage Unavoidable Impact Potential: Typically Results in Minor Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Enhanced Risk from SPC Flooding: Minor flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations), or Moderate flooding expected over isolated areas Tropical: A Tropical Storm expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Critical fire outlook for more than 2 consecutive days, Warnings for 2 or more consecutive days, D3-D4 drought conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A snow/sleet mix is expected to move through or near the DFW area tomorrow morning; travel impacts likely Numerous severe storms possible, a few tornadoes possible along with several reports of wind damage along with damaging hail Some large fires reported, burn bans advertised, critical conditions expected
Red	Rare – Once every 1-5 Years Safety: Extensive Property Damage Likely, Life Saving Actions Also will be Needed Impact Potential: Will likely result in Large Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: Moderate Risk from SPC Flooding: Moderate flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Hurricane expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large areas of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 1 hurricane will be moving towards the NW Gulf in the next few days Widespread severe storms likely, strong tornadoes, widespread wind damage, and destructive hail Large fires ongoing throughout the area with critical fire weather conditions expected to continue
Purple	Very Rare – Once Every 5-10 Years Safety: Property Damage Unavoidable, Immediate Action to Save Life will be Needed Impact Potential: Typically Results in Long-Lived Widespread Major Disruption to Daily Life	Severe: High Risk from SPC Flooding: Major flooding expected over a widespread area (including urban locations) Tropical: A Major Hurricane (Cat3 or greater) expected to move towards or near any coastline Fire: Large area of critical conditions for 2 or more days, Warnings for 3 or more days, Long term (months) of severe to extreme drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Category 4 hurricane is headed towards the SE LA; major storm surge, flooding and damaging winds anticipated to begin tomorrow Widespread severe storms expected, tornado outbreak probable with long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense storms